

# EMERGING STRONGER CONVERSATIONS

A series of conversations for Singaporeans to come together to reflect on their experience of the COVID-19 pandemic, and garner ideas on helping Singapore emerge stronger from the crisis. As part of the Singapore Together movement, we aim to turn these insights and ideas into action and partnerships.

**SINGAPOREANS WHO PARTICIPATED TO DATE: 623** (As of 18 September 2020. Cumulative since June 2020)

## 5 KEY ISSUES RAISED

### SOCIAL SUPPORT



- Concerned that social inequality and mobility will worsen as COVID-19 continues. Increased support from ground-up movements, corporates, and promotion of the social sector is needed.
- Feel the need to hear from those who are harder to reach e.g. the elderly, and offer timely help.
- Care about mental health and wellness (among caregivers, elderly living alone and youths), in view of the increased domestic violence and mental health issues during the circuit breaker period.

### PARTNERSHIPS & ENGAGEMENTS



- Agree with the government's shift towards engagement and co-creation, but more can be done to create platforms for people to talk to one another.
- The government could facilitate constructive discourse and partner the community in implementing solutions.
- Want more safe spaces to hold face-to-face conversations on difficult/uncomfortable topics.
- Hope that migrant workers would be better cared for through a multi-stakeholder approach.

### NATIONAL IDENTITY & SHARED VALUES



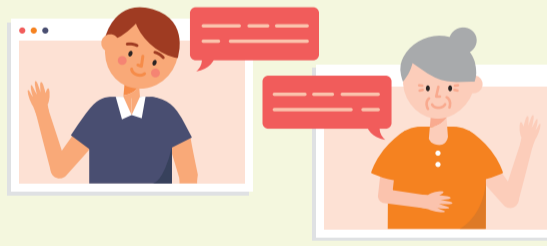
- Hope that society can be more empathetic, and that Singaporeans can put themselves in others' shoes before judging or making online comments.
- Hope for more Singaporeans to show care and look out for one another, and policymakers to have greater human touch in their work.
- Feel that we should strengthen our belief in meritocracy and ensure it is done strictly and fairly for everyone.

### JOBS & ECONOMY



- Feel that Singapore needs new areas of growth to stay competitive in the tech space.
- Feel the need to rethink pre-employment training and skills upgrading to equip local workforce for the future economy.

### DIGITALISATION & TECHNOLOGY



- Feel that COVID-19 steered us towards a new norm of digital savviness, e.g. Zoom helped many stay connected and enabled work efficiencies.
- Appreciate the government for helping seniors pick up new skills.
- Hope that digital access can be provided to more disadvantaged families.

## OUR PARTICIPANTS SAY...



We need to identify entrepreneurs and leaders of community initiatives who acted during COVID-19 and empower these individuals. They have potential to become leaders of change."



My hopes are for more people to get out to help others, be it big or small. Teach others to use Zoom to communicate better during this crisis. Be kinder. Embrace ways to build 'digital' kampung spirit. Anyone could be connected easily be it young or old. Adopt technology transformation. Embrace change."

Note: This infographics represent the issues raised at the conversations held between 6th and 18th of September 2020.



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